

FORT McCOY, BUILDING T-1146 (CHAPEL)
(Camp McCoy, Building T-1146 (Chapel))
Fort McCoy
Sparta vicinity
Monroe County
Wisconsin

HABS NO. WI-308-H

HABS
WIS,
41-SPAR.V,
1-H-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HABS
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT MCCOY, BUILDING T-1146 (CHAPEL)
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Location: Building T-1146 is located approximately 50' north-northeast of South Eleventh Avenue, and 500' west-northwest of East S Street, in Block 11 of the cantonment of the Main Post of Fort McCoy, in Monroe County, Wisconsin.¹

USGS Quadrangle Alderwood Lake, Wisconsin; 7.5 minute series 1983 (photorevised from 1978) UTM Coordinates: Zone 15: 4876280 N 686760 E

Present Owner: Department of the Army

Original Use: Regimental Chapel

Present Use: Unused

Significance: Building T-1146 is significant as a relatively unmodified representative of a unit chapel. It represents one of eleven, type CH-1 chapels constructed at Fort McCoy in 1942.² Of these, the majority have been undergone minor and major alterations.³

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: Construction of Building T-1146 probably began in the summer of 1942. There is a minor discrepancy on the date of building completion. Notations on the "As Built" drawing 800-550 state that the building was completed by 5 September 1942.⁴ However the Real Property Records on file in Buildings T-2160 and T-2145 and note the building as completed on 19 September 1942.⁵
2. Architect: George E. Bergstrom, Chief of the Architectural Unit in the Engineering Branch of the Construction Division, Quartermaster Corps, supervised the 1941 revision of the 700-1801 chapel plans that produced the 800-550 series drawings in April 1941.⁶
3. Original and subsequent owners: The site for the expanded Camp McCoy military reservation was condemned and purchased by the War Department in the spring of 1942.⁷ The owner from 1942-47 was the War Department. Since 1947, the U.S. Department of the Army, the successor to the War Department has held title.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Building T-1146 was part of construction area B at Fort McCoy. Bids for the construction of the cantonment were let in February

1942 and contracts were awarded in late March. The contracts for the seven principal construction areas were fixed-price in nature. The War Department purchased the lumber used in Building T-1146 and the rest of the cantonment in the spring of 1942. The remaining materials used in construction were apparently purchased by subcontractors in the Wisconsin area.⁸

5. Original Plans and Construction: Building T-1146 was built from 800 series plan number 800-550 and associated plan numbers 800-550.1, 800-550.2, 800-551, 800-553, 800-554, 800-555, 800-556, 800-557, 800-558, 800-559, 800-560, 800-194, 800-197, and 800-199.⁹ The original plans used to construct the eleven CH-1 regimental chapels at the installation are currently on file in "As Built" envelope #54 in Building T-2111. The original cost of the building was \$29,990.¹⁰ Alterations to the original building plan at the time of construction are noted in red on the "As Built" plans. These include square piers (round piers were commonly used at McCoy), the use of a metal frame for the toilet mirror (hardwood specified in plan), and the use of a joined 2" x 4" plank to replace the standard 4" x 10" purlin in the balcony. The optional laminated arch (plan 800-558) was omitted.¹¹
6. Alterations and additions: On the exterior, the grayish white cement asbestos siding has been replaced in a few spots at low elevations with white siding of similar size and wavy texture. The exterior of the structure has been repainted on three separate occasions in 1951, 1959 and 1965. The interior was repainted in 1951.¹² The building was re-roofed with red asphalt shingles at an undocumented date. Carpet was added to the interior rooms and center of the sanctuary, also at an unknown date.

B. Historical Context:

The construction of Building T-1146 was part of a massive nation-wide mobilization program designed to build cantonments in which to house and train the expanded World War II Army. The 800 series, and the 700 series that preceded it, was a comprehensive set of drawings which could be used interchangeably in creating the various building types. Through the construction of temporary wood frame buildings such as T-1146, the 1939 housing capacity of 200,000 was increased to 6,000,000 by the close of the mobilization program in the fall of 1944. In addition, war mobilization buildings are significant for their construction and technological innovation. Techniques such as the standardization of plans, prefabrication of units and assembly-line approach to construction were largely developed in the construction of mobilization buildings.

Building T-1146 was one of eleven regimental chapels constructed in the main cantonment area of the "New Camp McCoy," a mobilization cantonment built by the War Department between the entrance of the United States into World War II late in 1941 and early 1943.¹³ The 1941-43 cantonments were constructed to house and serve as training bases for approximately 525,000 men drafted for Army service after the declaration of war.¹⁴

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Two newly organized Army Divisions occupied Camp McCoy during their training. The Second Army Division arrived soon after the completion of construction in the fall of 1942 and remained until November 1943, leaving for action in the Italian Campaign. The 76th Division then took over, remaining until December 1944, when they departed for service in the Battle of the Bulge and the subsequent occupation of Germany. Additionally, engineer, railhead, field artillery, tank destroyer, ordnance, and maintenance troops were trained at Camp McCoy concurrently with the Second and 76th Divisions.¹⁵ In 1944, Camp McCoy also became a personnel center for the Army, receiving and redirecting soldiers for new assignments. The following year the personnel center began also to discharge veterans as the war came to a close. The personnel center closed in 1946, and most other functions of the camp halted a year later.¹⁶

After three years of relative inactivity, Camp McCoy was reactivated by the Defense Department for training of Regular, Reserve, and National Guard Units in the Fifth Army Area for service in the Korean War. Since 1953 the camp has become a center for training reserve units of the Army and National Guard Regiments of the Midwest Region.¹⁷

No data were available on occupants of Building T-1146 prior to 1964 when it was assigned to the 102 Division.¹⁸ The building was assigned to the Office of Employment Opportunity from December 1965 to May 1968.¹⁹

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Building T-1146 is a well preserved relatively unmodified example of the typical 800 series regimental chapel. On the basis of visual inspection and historical documentation, Building T-1146 appears to be the best preserved and least altered of the remaining chapels at Fort McCoy.
2. Condition of Fabric: The general condition of Building T-1146 is good. Deterioration areas noted in the structure's exterior include areas where the original cement asbestos siding has fallen off and been replaced. No significant deterioration was noted in the structure's interior.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: Building T-1146 is rectangular in shape and measures approximately 83'-3" in length and 37' in width. The boiler room projects an additional 14'-4" along the longitudinal axis from the rear of the nave and is approximately 19' in width. The vestibule, centered longitudinally, projects approximately 2' from the face of the front wall. The height from grade to the roof ridge is approximately 21'-3". The steeple and lightning rod rise an approximate 29' above the roof ridge.²⁰

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2. Foundations: Building T-1146 varies from the original plan in that it uses concrete block instead of poured concrete as its exterior foundation. It rests on 14" x 10" deep concrete strip footings set at approximately 2'-6" below grade. Four exterior piers on each side of the nave break the continuity of the strip footing. Serving to transfer roof loads from the trusses, they are spaced approximately 11'-6" o.c. starting at a point 23'-5" from the front wall of the chapel. To support the floor, two rows of concrete piers divide the lateral width approximately into thirds. They are spaced at approximately 8' o.c. from the rear wall of the nave. If constructed per plan 800-555, the typical interior piers measure 9" x 12", rest on a 2'-6" x 2'-6" x 1'-0" deep concrete pad and are reinforced with four 5/8" diameter reinforcing bars. There is no cellar excavation. This was not confirmed in the field as the crawl space is blocked with concrete block foundation wall.
3. Walls: The exterior walls of Building T-1146 consist of three layers over wood studs: wooden sheathing, black construction paper, and cement asbestos siding measuring 11" x 24", the standard size used throughout the cantonment.
4. Structural System, framing: Building T-1146 uses light frame construction. The roof is supported by a pair of stepped scissor trusses spaced at 11'-6" o.c., symmetrical about the longitudinal axis of the nave and set at a 6.5 to 12 slope. Two 3" x 8" members compose the top chord and two 3" x 6" members compose the bottom. The trusses are designed such that the web members align exactly to the vertical and horizontal directions. Each side of the truss is divided into three panels separated by vertical web members placed at 6'-0" horizontally. Each vertical web member is a single plank sized at 3" x 6". The horizontal web member is composed of two 3" x 6" planks which are joined to truss chords through the use of a 3" wood fill plate. Typical connections of the chords to the web members are made with 4" shear plates and 3/4" diameter bolts. The purlins are made of 4" x 10" wood members and are connected to the truss via the extension of the vertical web member through the top edge of the top chord. 2" x 8" tongue and groove planking, placed at a 45 degree angle to the direction of the trusses, is used for the roof deck. The loads from a typical truss are transferred to the foundation with three 3" x 14" planks. The planks form the outermost vertical web member of the truss.
5. Porches stoops: The record drawing version of the standard plan for Building T-1146 shows wooden steps at the front and rear of the structure. However, the building, like all 1942 cantonment buildings at McCoy, has poured concrete steps with cast iron railings. There are three risers each, for both the front and the rear steps.
6. Chimneys: The chimney is located within the boiler room and rises approximately 24' above grade. The chimney is constructed of red brick in a running bond with Portland cement mortar. When in use the chimney served as exhaust for the fumes emitted from the coal-burning furnace.²¹

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7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and Doors: At the rear of the building a six-light double-recessed panel door was used at the single rear entry to the chapel. A four-light three-panel door is present on the entry to the boiler room. The front double-door entrance consist of two three-paneled doors with no lights. No notes on door specifications for CH-1 chapels were available in the "As Built" files in Building 2111.
- b. Windows: Front: There are two six-over-six-light double-hung sash windows with simple architrave placed symmetrically about the longitudinal axis. Rear: There are two six-over-six-light double-hung sash windows with simple architrave placed symmetrically on either side of the boiler room. Right side: There is one six-light louvered window at the balcony, one six-over-six-light double-hung sash window with simple architrave in the consultation room, five sixteen-over-sixteen-light double-hung sash windows in the nave with yellow stained-glass on each side and one, six-over-six-light double-hung sash window with simple architrave in the chaplains office. Left side: The left side is identical to the right in terms of placement, size and type. However, the window corresponding to the consultation room on the right does not appear on the left. Boiler room: There is one, six-over-six-light double-hung sash window with simple architrave at the left and right walls.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. Basement: There is no basement under Building T-1146. The crawl space is at grade.
- b. Main Floor: Building T-1146, as constructed in 1942 had a total square footage of 3,748. There are fifteen rooms in the building; the covered entry, the balcony, the vestibule, the cloak room with a water closet, the consultation room, the nave, the sanctuary, two chaplains offices, the water closet, the boiler room, two closets and a passage. The ceiling below the balcony floor is approximately 9'-7" in height and the ceiling in the sanctuary extends to approximately 18'-8".

2. Stairways: There is a two-flight, L-shaped seven-step stairway leading from the cloak room to the balcony. It is 3'-2" wide and is constructed of wood. The wood rail is made from 4" x 4" vertical members and 2" x 4" diagonal members.
3. Flooring: The structure has hardwood floors. The flooring has been covered with carpet in most rooms, the center nave and front of the sanctuary.

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4. Wall and Ceiling finishes: The wood wainscotting, trim, ceiling and ceiling trusses in the structure's interior have been stained or varnished. All wall board surfaces in the interior have been painted white.
5. Openings: The interior double door entrance to the nave consists of two three-paneled doors. All other openings are single three-paneled doors. No notes on door specifications for CH-1 chapels were available in the "As Built" files in Building 2111,
6. Decorative Trim: Vertical wood wainscotting covers all interior walls of sanctuary. All doorways and moldings in the structure are made of simple square trim.
7. Hardware: The original galvanized metal knobs and rim locks survive on all exterior and interior doors. The original hardware on all of the double-hung windows also remains. Interior and exterior lighting fixtures are the same as those specified in building plan 800-560. All pews, chairs, and the kneeler in the structure conform to the specifications in plan 800-550.2.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating: The structure was heated with a "No. 3 Redflash" coal-fired steam boiler located at the rear. Seven steam radiators were located in various smaller rooms throughout the chapel. The sanctuary was heated with two large "Unit Heaters" which were suspended from the ceiling truss.
 - b. Ventilation: The structure is vented through two fixed wooden louvers, in the church steeple.
 - c. Lighting: All interior and exterior lighting appears to conform to the specifications as laid out in plan 800-560. The front entry is lighted by a four-sided iron 400-watt fixture suspended over the steps. The sanctuary is lighted with twelve "type-1", four 100-watt bulb fixtures, suspended on chain from the ceiling trusses. All other rooms are lighted with 50-, 100-, and 150-watt 8" diameter fixtures with porcelain enameled reflector bowls.
 - d. Plumbing: The original cast-iron plumbing fixtures remain in both toilet rooms. The steam radiators and unit heaters also date to the period of construction.
9. Original Furnishings: All pews, chairs, and the kneeler in the structure conform to the specifications in plan 800-550.2 and date to the period of construction.

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D. Site:

1. General Setting and orientation: Building T-1146 and the street layout and other buildings of Block 11 are arranged on a rectangular pattern running generally south-southwest to north-northeast along its long axis. The building is north and across Eleventh Avenue from the main barracks area. Building T-1146 is located approximately 50' north-northeast of Eleventh Avenue and faces the street.
2. Historical Landscape Design: To the east and rear of the building there is an asphalt parking lot. A poured concrete sidewalk is located between the building and Eleventh Avenue, an asphalt road. The remainder of the building lot is relatively flat and planted in grass.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- A. Architectural Drawings: Building 1146 was built from 800 series plan number 800-550 and associated plan numbers 800-550.1, 800-550.2, 800-551, 800-553, 800-555, 800-556, 800-557, 800-559, 800-560, 800-194, 800-197, and 800-199. The original plans used to construct the eleven regimental chapels are currently on file in "As Built" envelope #54 in Building 2111.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:
 - a. Standard Mobilization Drawings 800 Series Plan number 800-550, 800-550.1, 800-551.2, 800-552, 800-553, 800-554, 800-555, 800-556, 800-557, 800-558, 800-559, 800-560, 800-194, 800-197, and 800-199.
 - b. Office of the Area Engineer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. "Camp McCoy Project -- General Layout Plan No. 6150-L, May 23, 1942.
 - c. Record Drawing file #54 in "As Built Files, Building T-2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
 - d. Real Property Record. Building and Structures, Building T-2145, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
2. Secondary and Published sources:

"As Built" file # 54, Building T-2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

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Basic Information Map, Fort McCoy Wisconsin, General Site Map North Fort Sheet 3a of 13. Office of the Facilities Engineer, Bldg 2160. Original January -11-1965; Revision #11 June-4-1976.

Buildings and Structures Descriptions, from box marked "Save Historical"; Building 2145 (Meatlocker), Fort McCoy, Original typed entries, undated.

"Historical Summary," typescript summary of the history of Camp McCoy prepared by the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy n.d., ca. 1985, p. 6.

Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington, *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States*. (volume in the series, *United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services*) (Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army).

Office of the Area Engineer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. "Camp McCoy Project--General Layout Plan No. 6150-1-L, May 23, 1942, Original blueprint print in map file cabinet Building T-2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

Post Engineer Office Historical Data, Document dated 15, January 1946, on file Building T-2145 "Meatlocker", Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

Real property records file; Building T-2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Also see original Real Property Record cards filebox in Building T-2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

"To Condemn 9600 acres for McCoy," *Sparta Herald*, February 9, 1942, p. 1.

Unmarked wooden File Box, Building T-2145, "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. File contains 4x5 cards listing buildings and assignees.

C. Likely Sources Not Investigated:

1. Documentary: Information of the firm charged with the construction of Building T-1146 may be available. Additional data may be available in the National Archives on George E. Bergstrom and the other architects who produced and revised the 800 series Standard Drawings.
2. Oral History: Interviews could be conducted with personnel involved in the construction of the chapels at Fort McCoy and the military archives could be searched for chaplain's records.

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D. Supplemental Materials:

The original "As Built" drawings for Building T-1146 are filed in Building T-2111, at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. They could not be duplicated and as such could not be included with this documentation. Standard plans for the 800 series CH-1 Chapel are available from the National Archives.

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of Fort McCoy was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) of the National Park Service, Robert J. Kapsch, chief, during the summer of 1988. The project was sponsored by the United States Army, Environmental Office, Colonel Ronald G. Kelsey, chief, with the assistance of Constance W. Ramirez, Historic Preservation Officer for the U.S. Army. Local sponsorship was provided at Fort McCoy by the base Commander, Colonel Sorensen, and by Al Balliett and Marvin Westenburg of the Environmental Division; John Calvert, Engineering Planning and Services Division; and Robert Wells, Real Property. The project was managed through the HABS/HAER WASO office by John A. Burns, architect, and project leader and Catherine Crawford, HABS historian. The documentation was undertaken at the HABS/HAER field office at Fort McCoy by James Glass, HABS/HAER, and by Keith Landreth, U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (USACERL), Champaign, Illinois. Large-format photography was done by Martin Stupich.

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NOTES:

1. Basic Information Map, Fort McCoy Wisconsin, General Site Map North Fort Sheet 3a of 13. Office of the Facilities Engineer, Bldg 2160. Original January -11-1965; Revision #11 June-4-1976.
2. Buildings and Structures Descriptions, from box marked "Save Historical"; Building 2145 (Meatlocker), Fort McCoy, Original typed entries, undated.
3. "As Built" file 0 54, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
4. Completion label appended to Record Drawing # 800-550. "As Built" envelope #54, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. All eleven (11) CH-1 structures at Fort McCoy were built according to this record plan.
5. Real property records file; Building 2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Also see original Real Property Record cards filebox in Building 2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
6. Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington, *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States* [volume in the series, *United States Army in World War II: The Technical Services*] (Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army), pp. 349.
7. "To Condemn 9600 acres for McCoy," *Sparta Herald*, February 9, 1942, p. 1.
8. Office of the Area Engineer, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. "Camp McCoy Project--General Layout Plan No. 6150-1-L, May 23, 1942. Original blueline print in map file cabinet building 2145 "Meatlocker."
9. "As Built" file #54, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
10. Real Property Records, Building 2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
11. "As Built" file #54, Building 2111, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
12. Real Property Records, Building 2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Also see Real Property Records box, building 2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
13. Post Engineer Office Historical Data, Document dated 15, January 1946, on file Building 2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
14. Diane Wasch and Perry Busch, (draft) History of the Design and Construction of Temporary World War II Buildings by the War Department. Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., 1988, pp. 42, 47.
15. "Post Engineer Office Historical Data, Document dated 15, January 1946, on file Building 2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.
16. Ibid.
17. "Historical Summary," typescript summary of the history of Camp McCoy prepared by the Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy n.d., ca. 1985, p. 6.

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18. Unmarked wooden File Box, building 2145, "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. File contains 4x5 cards listing buildings and assignees.

19. "Real Property Records, Building 2160, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Also see Real Property Records box, building 2145 "Meatlocker," Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

20. Real Property Record Building 1046 ; Real property records office, Building 2160 Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

21. Standard Plan 800-559.